

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Programme Structure

SINGLE SEMESTER COURSE

Course Code	Course Title	Lecture (L) Hours Per	Tutorial (T) Hours Per Week	Practical (P) Hours Per	Total Credits
DSM2051	Disaster Management	3	-	-	3
	TOTAL				3

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Syllabus

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Course Code: DSM2051

Credit Units: 03

SINGLE SEMESTER COURSE

Introduction

This course is being introduced at the UG level to enable students and citizens to recognize the increasing vulnerability of the planet in general and India in particular to disasters. This, it is expected would create a basis to work towards preparedness and also help us develop a culture of safety and prevention. The adoption of a disaster risk reduction perspective in the teaching of the course would be useful. While disasters are generally seen as an outcome of catastrophic natural events, the idea of pre-existing vulnerabilities is equally important. These need to be understood and addressed if disaster impacts are to be minimized. There has been a considerable policy level intervention in India in recent years and if teachers and young people in each city, district block or village can understand and explore avenues of reducing disaster risks and work towards preparedness the efforts would contribute towards minimizing losses and saving lives.

Disaster Management is a highly multidisciplinary subject wherein rich contributions have been made by the fields of environmental sciences, medicine, geography, geology, sociology, political science, economics, social work profession, psychology, public administration, law, gender studies, engineering sciences, demography, media studies and so on. Therefore, this course at the undergraduate level could be easily taught by faculty members from any discipline. They must be interested in the subject matter and willing to look at disaster management issues from both a theoretical perspective as well as from a practical standpoint. This would enrich the teaching learning process. While this course has been developed keeping diverse disciplines in mind the teachers in consultation with the college curriculum committee are welcome to improvise and modify the content. Encouraging creativity or teachers is important.

Course Details

The course will be of 50 lectures of about 45 minutes each following the UGC pattern. It will be taught in a single semester. It may be located in any of the 3 years of graduation based on availability of teachers and structure of the broader courses on offer in each University/ College.

The course may be taught by a teacher of any discipline as Disaster Management (DM) is multi disciplinary and draws its knowledge base from a range of disciplines.

Course Objectives:

- To provide students an exposure to disasters, their significance and types
- To ensure that students begin to understand the relationship between vulnerability, disasters, disaster prevention and risk reduction.
- To gain a preliminary understanding of approaches of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- To enhance awareness of institutional processes in the country and
- To develop rudimentary ability to respond to their surroundings with potential disaster response in areas where they live, with due sensitivity.

Course Contents:

Module-I: Introduction to Disasters (No. of lectures: 6)

Concepts, and definitions (Disaster, Hazard, Vulnerability, Resilience, Risks)

Module-II: Disasters: Classification, Causes, Impacts (No. of lectures: 12)

(Including social, economic, political, environmental, health, psychosocial, etc.)

Differential impacts-in terms of caste, class, gender, age, location, disability. Global trends in disasters urban disasters, pandemics, complex emergencies, Climate change.

Module-III: Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction: (No. of lectures: 10)

Disaster cycle- its analysis, Phases, Culture of safety, prevention, mitigation and preparedness, community based DRR, Structural- nonstructural measures, roles and responsibilities of community, Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Urban Local Bodies (PRIs/ULBs), States, Centre, and other stake-holders.

Module-IV: Inter-relationship between Disasters & Development (No. of lectures: 6)

Factors affecting Vulnerabilities, differential impacts, Impact of Development projects such as dams, embankments, changes in Land-use etc. Climate Change Adaptation. Relevance of indigenous knowledge, appropriate technology and local resources

Module-V: Disaster Risk Management in India: (No. of lectures: 8)

Hazard and Vulnerability profile of India

Components of Disaster Relief: Water, Food, Sanitation, Shelter, Health, Waste Management

Institutional arrangements (Mitigation, Response and Preparedness, DM Act and Policy, Other related policies, plans, programmes and legislation)

Module-VI: Project Work: Field Work, Case Studies (No. of lectures: 8)

The project/ filed work is meant for students to understand vulnerabilities and to work on reducing disaster risks and to build a culture of safety. Projects must be conceived creatively based on the geographic location and hazard profile of the region where the college is located. A few ideas or suggestions are discussed below:

Several governmental initiatives require Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to be proactive in preparing DM Plans and community based disaster preparedness plans. Information on these would be available with the district Collector or Municipal Corporations. The scope for students to collaborate on these initiatives is immense. Teachers may explore possibilities.

Teachers could ask students to explore and map Disaster prone areas, vulnerable sites, vulnerability of people (specific groups) and resources. The students along with teachers could work on ways of addressing these vulnerabilities, preparing plans in consultation with local administration or NGOs.

Students could conduct mock drills in schools, colleges or hospitals. They could also work on school safety, safety of college buildings, training in first aid.

Other examples could be identifying how a large dam, road/highway or an embankment or the location of an industry affects local environment and resources or how displacement of large sections of people creates severe vulnerabilities may be mapped by student project work.

Teaching Resources

A range of Films- documentaries and feature films related to disasters and their impacts and on vulnerabilities of people are available which a teacher could choose with care and screen. This could form a basis for classroom discussion.

Examination Scheme:

Components	A	CT	S/V/Q	HA	EE
Weightage (%)	5	15	5	5	70

A-Attendance; CT-Class Test; S/V/Q-Seminar/Quiz/Viva; HA-Home Assignment; EE-End Semester Examination

Suggested Readings:

- Alexander David, Introduction in 'Confronting Catastrophe', Oxford University Press, 2000
- Anandharia J. Vulnerability in Disaster Discourse, JTCMD, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Working Paper no. 8, 2008.
- Blaikie, P, Cannon T, Davis I, Wisner B 1997. At Risk Natural Hazards, Peoples' Vulnerability and Disasters, Routledge.
- Coppola P Damon, 2007. Introduction to International Disaster Management
- Carter, Nick 1991. Disaster Management: A Disaster Manager's Handbook. Asian Development Bank, Manila Philippines.
- Cuny, F. 1983. Development and Disasters, Oxford University Press.
- Document on World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002.
- Govt. of India: Disaster Management Act 2005, Government of India, New Delhi.
- Gupta Anil K, Sreeja S. Nair. 2011 Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management, NIDM, New Delhi
- Indian Journal of Social Work 2002. Special Issue on Psychosocial Aspects of Disasters, Volume 63, Issue 2, April
- Kapur, Anu & others, 2005: Disasters in India Studies of grim reality, Rawat Publishers, Jaipur
- Kapur, Anu & others, 2010: Vulnerable India: A Geographical Study of Disasters, IIAS and Sage Publishers, New Delhi
- Parasuraman S, Acharya Niru 2000. Analysing forms of vulnerability in a disaster. The Indian Journal of Social Work, vol 61, issue 4, October
- Pelling Mark, 2003 The Vulnerability of Cities: Natural Disaster and Social Resilience Earthscan publishers, London
- Reducing risk of disasters in our communities, Disaster theory, Tearfund, 2006
- UNISDR, Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development: Understanding the links between Development, Environment and Natural Disasters, Background Paper No. 5 2002.
- IFRC, 2005 World Disaster Report: Focus on Information in Disaster, pp. 182-225.